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Eiji UEDA et al.

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APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO:

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1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form

(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)

6. Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)

2. ☒ Specification

(Total Pages -66)

(preferred arrangement set forth below)

- Descriptive title of the Invention
- Cross References to Related Applications
- Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
- Reference to Microfiche Appendix
- Background of the Invention
- Brief Summary of the Invention
- Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
- Detailed Description
- Claim(s)
- Abstract of the Disclosure

7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission

(if applicable, all necessary)

- a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
- b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
- c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

- 8. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
- 9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney (when there is an assignee)
- 10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
- 11. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449
- ☒ Copies of IDS Citations
- 12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- 13. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)
- 14. ☐ Small Entity Statement(s)
- ☐ Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired
- 15. ☒ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
- 16. ☐ Other

3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 USC 113)

(Total sheets -14)

4. ☒ Oath or Declaration

(Total Pages - 5)

- a.1. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)
- a.2. ☒ Unexecuted
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)

(Note Box 5 below)

i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)

Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference

(usable if Box 4b is checked)

The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

- ☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior Application No.

18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.
2033 "K" Street, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone:(202) 721-8200
Fax:(202) 721-8250

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TITLE OF THE INVENTION

DATA DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND DEVICES USED THEREIN

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a data distribution system and devices used in the system, and more particularly to a system in which multimedia data is broadcast (transmitted) from a transmission device by broadcast or communication and the broadcast (transmitted) multimedia data is received at a receiving device and displayed on a screen, and to the devices used in this system.

Description of the Background Art

Various terminal devices which obtain and display distributed multimedia data have been conventionally developed. Among such devices, terminal devices used on the Internet obtain the multimedia data as follows. First, according to an instruction from a user, the terminal device directly accesses through the Internet a WWW (World Wide Web) server in which multimedia data are previously stored. The terminal device then retrieves necessary multimedia data from the WWW server.

In this way, the main current of the systems for obtaining multimedia data has been the method of so-called "pull" type, where users freely retrieve target data typically through the Internet as stated above.

25 On the other hand, the demand for multimedia data distribution

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through broadcasting is currently growing, which belongs to "push" type where data is pushed out toward users. The data distribution through DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting) which was developed in the EUREKA-147 project in Europe is an example of the push type. In such multimedia data distribution through broadcasting, a user can obtain necessary multimedia data by indicating to a receiving terminal a broadcast channel to receive the data. That is to say, necessary multimedia data is automatically received through the specified channel and displayed.

The user of the receiving terminal can thus easily refer to the multimedia data just like through conventional broadcast on TV or radio. In this way, the multimedia data distribution through broadcasting has the advantage of saving the need for executing the process of searching for and taking out necessary data.

However, the above-explained multimedia data distribution through broadcasting differs from the real time data distribution from WWW servers on the Internet (distribution where a data distribution response to a data reference request can be made in real time). A broadcasting station in the broadcast multimedia data distribution therefore cannot process reference requests from users in real time. It is hence difficult for the users to control the contents of the broadcast multimedia data in the broadcast multimedia data distribution.

That is to say, when users demand to refer to arbitrary multimedia data, it is difficult for the broadcasting station in the

data broadcasting system to satisfy every reference request in real time. Accordingly the users must wait until multimedia data they want to refer to are broadcast according to a predetermined broadcast program to obtain the necessary multimedia data.

5 Now, if data can be stored in the receiving terminal, the user can locally refer to the multimedia data broadcast in the past (multimedia data stored in the receiving terminal). However, though it depends on the circuit scale of the terminal and cost, the receiving terminal is usually capable of storing only small part of data stored
10 in the data broadcast equipment in the broadcasting station. Thus, although the multimedia data can be locally referred to, the user is actually allowed just to fragmentarily and time-sequentially receive and refer to only part of the multimedia data existing in the data broadcasting equipment.

15 For example, when the multimedia data to be referred to is in the HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) format having a link structure, the users cannot conveniently refer to the multimedia data until they receive other multimedia data linked to the multimedia data (referred to as linked data hereinafter).

20 Moreover, when the linked data is absent in the data broadcasting equipment, e.g., when the linked data resides in an external WWW server, the user cannot even know the outlines of the data, not to mention referring to the linked data.

As stated above, in the multimedia data distribution through
25 broadcasting, users cannot know what multimedia data will be broadcast

and have to wait passively. The multimedia data distribution through broadcasting thus has the problem that the users cannot grasp the entire structure of the broadcast multimedia data and therefore have difficulty in judging which multimedia data are necessary. That it
5 to say, the users cannot instantaneously decide whether data linked to the multimedia data currently referred to is necessary, and therefore they cannot decide whether to store the multimedia data currently referred to. This fact not only makes it difficult for the users to grasp the information about the entire data but also requires
10 the terminal devices receiving the data broadcast to be equipped with storage devices with increased capacity.

The above problem that the contents of broadcast multimedia data cannot be known until it is received leads to other problems related to the display attributes of the multimedia data. Such problems
15 include one related to dithering used when displaying JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) images, for example. This problem arises not only in data distribution by broadcast but also in data distribution by communications.

Most mobile receiving terminals, such as portable telephones
20 and mobile terminals, are not provided with sufficient display capabilities because of the cost restriction, etc. For example, receiving terminals capable of displaying only up to 256 colors at one time cannot clearly display some JPEG data images such as photographs with gentle gradation (referred to as JPEG natural
25 painting data hereinafter); the gradation may be displayed like

stripes and then the picture will look very clumsy. On the other hand, such receiving terminals can well display JPEG data of line drawings like graphs (referred to as JPEG line drawing data hereinafter) with enhanced contrast.

Techniques for displaying JPEG data as smooth images include dithering. The dithering processing enables JPEG natural painting data to be displayed as an image close in appearance to the original picture. However, when dithering is applied to JPEG line drawing data, the whole becomes unclear (edges become especially unclear) and may be displayed as a deteriorated image with illegible details.

Accordingly, for JPEG data, it is desirable to decide whether or not to apply dithering according to the data type (whether a natural painting or line drawing) before displaying the image.

However, in the above-described multimedia data distribution through broadcasting, the receiving terminal displays the broadcast multimedia data in a mode previously defined in the receiving terminal (with or without dithering). Accordingly the multimedia data may be displayed in an undesirable mode.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore an object of the present invention is to provide a data broadcast system, a data communication system, and devices used in the systems, wherein link information, image display information, etc., about multimedia data are previously generated and broadcast (or transmitted) together with the multimedia data and a receiving

terminal manages the state of reception about the multimedia data so that the outlines of the entire multimedia data can be grasped and the visibility is improved in the receiving terminal.

To achieve the object above, the present invention has the
5 following features:

A first aspect is directed to a data broadcast system comprising a data broadcasting device provided in a broadcasting station which broadcasts multimedia data and a receiving terminal device receiving the multimedia data broadcast from the data broadcasting device,

10 wherein the data broadcasting device comprises;

a data analyzing portion for analyzing the contents of the multimedia data and generating output attribute data corresponding to the multimedia data, and

a data transmitting portion for broadcasting the multimedia
15 data together with the output attribute data, and

the receiving terminal device comprises;

a receiving portion for receiving the multimedia data and the output attribute data which are broadcast,

a data managing portion for managing and storing the multimedia
20 data and the output attribute data which are received, and

a data output portion for outputting the multimedia data together with its attribute information by referring to the output attribute data.

As stated above, in accordance with the first aspect, the data
25 broadcasting device broadcasts multimedia data together with its

output attribute data and the receiving terminal device outputs attribute information obtained from the output attribute data together with the multimedia data. Accordingly, for example, a user can know the information about data linked to the broadcast multimedia data
5 without receiving or analyzing those data.

According to a second aspect, in the data broadcast system of the first aspect,

the data broadcasting device further comprises a portion for embedding the output attribute data generated by the data analyzing
10 portion in the multimedia data, and

the data transmitting portion broadcasts the multimedia data in which the output attribute data is embedded.

As stated above, in accordance with the second aspect, the data broadcasting device embeds generated output attribute data in the
15 multimedia data and broadcasts the same. Accordingly the receiving terminal device does not have to separately manage the multimedia data and the output attribute data; it can collectively manage the multimedia data. This allows a reduction in capacity of the storage device of the receiving terminal device. Further, the receiving
20 terminal device can obtain the output attribute data by referring only to the multimedia data to be displayed. Moreover, the receiving terminal device can send/receive the output attribute data by sending/receiving the multimedia data.

According to a third aspect, in the data broadcast system of
25 the second aspect,

the receiving terminal device further comprises a data extracting portion for extracting from the received multimedia data the output attribute data embedded therein and outputting the output attribute data to the data managing portion, and

5 the data managing portion manages the output attribute data extracted by the data extracting portion separately from the corresponding multimedia data.

As stated above, in accordance with the third aspect, the receiving terminal device extracts the output attribute data embedded
10 in the multimedia data and separately manages the output attribute data and the multimedia data. Accordingly the multimedia data broadcast together with the output attribute data embedded therein is stored in the original form of the multimedia data in the receiving terminal device. Therefore it is possible to secure for the user that
15 the data stored in the receiving terminal device is not altered. Further, the receiving terminal device can send/receive the multimedia data in its original form intended by the data provider.

According to a fourth aspect, in the data broadcast system of the first aspect,

20 the receiving terminal device further comprises a data analyzing portion for analyzing the contents of the received multimedia data and newly generating the output attribute data about the multimedia data.

As stated above, in accordance with the fourth aspect, the
25 receiving terminal device itself analyzes received multimedia data

and generates new output attribute data. Accordingly it can set (change) the output attribute data so as to optimize the data for itself.

According to a fifth aspect, in the data broadcast system of
5 the first aspect,

the data managing portion further manages a state of reception about data linked to the multimedia data, and

the data output portion outputs a state of data linked to the multimedia data by referring to the state of reception as well as the
10 output attribute data.

As stated above, in accordance with the fifth aspect, the receiving terminal device outputs the state of linked data in the screen on the basis of the state of reception about the multimedia data. This saves the user tracing linked locations which cannot be
15 displayed, thus previously saving the user performing troublesome operation (the operation of returning when the linked data is absent).

According to a sixth aspect, in the data broadcast system of the first aspect,

when the multimedia data is data in an HTML format,
20 the output attribute data comprises information about data linked to the multimedia data, concerning at least one of its file name, the number of images contained therein, its data size, and the number of data pieces further linked thereto.

According to a seventh aspect, in the data broadcast system
25 of the first aspect,

when the multimedia data is data in a JPEG format,
the output attribute data comprises information about at least
one of data type of the multimedia data (a natural painting or a line
drawing) and a recommended screen size suited to display of the
5 multimedia data.

As stated above, the sixth and seventh aspects show typical
output attribute data information in particular multimedia data forms.

When information about data linked to HTML form data is set
as the output attribute data as shown in the sixth aspect, the user
10 can judge the importance of data information not received. When
information about a JPEG form data image is set as the output attribute
data as in the seventh aspect, the user can automatically display an
appropriate JPEG image without manually setting dithering, for
example.

15 An eighth aspect is directed to a data broadcasting device
provided in a broadcasting station which broadcasts multimedia data,
the data broadcasting device comprising:

a data analyzing portion for analyzing the contents of the
multimedia data and generating output attribute data about the
20 multimedia data, and

a data transmitting portion for broadcasting the multimedia
data together with a corresponding piece of the output attribute data.

According to a ninth aspect, the data broadcasting device of
the eighth aspect further comprises a portion for embedding the output
25 attribute data generated by the data analyzing portion in the

multimedia data,

and the data transmitting portion broadcasts the multimedia data in which the output attribute data is embedded.

According to a tenth aspect, in the data broadcasting device
5 of the eighth aspect,

when the multimedia data is data in an HTML format,

the output attribute data comprises information about data
linked to the multimedia data, concerning at least one of its file
name, the number of images contained therein, its data size, and the
10 number of data pieces further linked thereto.

According to an eleventh aspect, in the data broadcasting device
of the eighth aspect,

when the multimedia data is data in a JPEG format,

the output attribute data comprises information about at least
15 one of data type of the multimedia data (a natural painting or a line
drawing) and a recommended screen size suited to display of the
multimedia data.

A twelfth aspect is directed to a receiving terminal device
which receives multimedia data broadcast together with output
20 attribute data, the receiving terminal device comprising:

a receiving portion for receiving the multimedia data and the
output attribute data which are broadcast,

a data managing portion for managing and storing the multimedia
data and the output attribute data which are received, and

25 a data output portion for outputting the multimedia data

together with its attribute information by referring to the output attribute data.

According to a thirteenth aspect, the receiving terminal device of the twelfth aspect further comprises a data extracting portion for, when the output attribute data is embedded in the multimedia data, extracting from the received multimedia data the output attribute data embedded therein and outputting the output attribute data to the data managing portion, and

the data managing portion manages the output attribute data extracted by the data extracting portion separately from the corresponding multimedia data.

According to a fourteenth aspect, the receiving terminal device of the twelfth aspect further comprises a data analyzing portion for analyzing the contents of the received multimedia data and newly generating the output attribute data about the multimedia data.

According to a fifteenth aspect, in the receiving terminal device of the twelfth aspect,

the data managing portion further manages a state of reception about data linked to the multimedia data, and

the data output portion outputs a state of data linked to the multimedia data by referring to the state of reception as well as the output attribute data.

A sixteenth aspect is directed to a receiving terminal device which receives broadcast multimedia data, comprising:

a receiving portion for receiving the broadcast multimedia

data in a JPEG format and a receiving terminal device receiving the multimedia data transmitted from the data communication device,

wherein the data communication device comprises;

a data analyzing portion for analyzing the contents of the multimedia data and generating output attribute data about the multimedia data, and

a data transmitting portion for transmitting the multimedia data together with a corresponding piece of the output attribute data,

and the receiving terminal device comprises;

a receiving portion for receiving the multimedia data and the output attribute data which are transmitted,

a data managing portion for managing and storing the multimedia data and the output attribute data which are received, and

a data output portion which determines a method of displaying the multimedia data by referring to the output attribute data.

As stated above, in accordance with the seventeenth aspect, the data communication device transmits multimedia data of JPEG form and its output attribute data together and the receiving terminal device determines in which form the multimedia data is to be displayed on the basis of the output attribute data. Accordingly the receiving terminal device can automatically display an appropriate JPEG image as soon as it receives the data.

According to an eighteenth aspect, in the data communication system of the seventeenth aspect,

the data communication device further comprises a portion for

receiving terminal device extracts the output attribute data embedded in the multimedia data and separately manages the output attribute data and the multimedia data. Accordingly the multimedia data broadcast together with the output attribute data embedded therein is stored in the original form of the multimedia data in the receiving terminal device. Therefore it is possible to secure for the user that the data stored in the receiving terminal device is not altered. Further, the receiving terminal device can send/receive the multimedia data in its original form intended by the data provider.

According to a twentieth aspect, in the data communication system of the seventeenth aspect,

the data analyzing portion generates the output attribute data showing data type of the multimedia data (a natural painting or a line drawing), and

the data output portion determines whether or not to apply dithering to the multimedia data when displaying the multimedia data on the basis of the data type.

According to a twenty-first aspect, in the data communication system of the seventeenth aspect,

the data analyzing portion generates the output attribute data showing a recommended screen size suited to display of the multimedia data, and

the data output portion determines whether or not to apply dithering to the multimedia data when displaying the multimedia data on the basis of a result of comparison between the recommended screen

size and the size of a screen in which the multimedia data is actually displayed.

As stated above, the twentieth and twenty-first aspects show typical output attribute data information about JPEG multimedia data.

- 5 The receiving terminal device can thus automatically display an appropriate JPEG image without manually setting dithering as soon as it receives the data.

- A twenty-second aspect is directed to a data communication device which makes communications of multimedia data in a JPEG format,
10 the data communication device comprising:

- a data analyzing portion for analyzing the contents of the multimedia data to generate output attribute data comprising information about at least one of data type of the multimedia data (a natural painting or a line drawing) and a recommended screen size
15 suited to display of the multimedia data; and

a data transmitting portion for transmitting the multimedia data together with the corresponding output attribute data.

- According to a twenty-third aspect, the data communication device of the twenty-second aspect further comprises a portion for
20 embedding the output attribute data generated by the data analyzing portion in the multimedia data,

and the data transmitting portion transmits the multimedia data in which the output attribute data is embedded.

- A twenty-fourth aspect is directed to a receiving terminal
25 device which receives multimedia data in a JPEG format which is

transmitted together with output attribute data, the output attribute data comprising information about at least one of data type of the multimedia data (a natural painting or a line drawing) and a recommended screen size suited to display of the multimedia data, the

5 receiving terminal device comprising:

a receiving portion for receiving the multimedia data and the output attribute data which are transmitted;

a data managing portion for managing and storing the multimedia data and the output attribute data which are received; and

10 a data output portion which determines a method of displaying the multimedia data by referring to the output attribute data.

According to a twenty-fifth aspect, the receiving terminal device of the twenty-fourth aspect further comprises a data extracting portion for, when the output attribute data is embedded in the
15 multimedia data, extracting from the received multimedia data the output attribute data embedded therein and outputting the output attribute data to the data managing portion,

and the data managing portion manages the output attribute data extracted by the data extracting portion separately from the
20 corresponding multimedia data.

According to a twenty-sixth aspect, in the receiving terminal device of the twenty-fourth aspect,

the data output portion determines whether or not to apply dithering to the multimedia data when displaying the multimedia data
25 on the basis of the data type.

According to a twenty-seventh aspect, in the receiving terminal device of the twenty-fourth aspect,

the data output portion determines whether or not to apply dithering to the multimedia data when displaying the multimedia data on the basis of a comparison between the recommended screen size and the size of a screen in which the multimedia data is actually displayed.

A twenty-eighth aspect is directed to a receiving terminal device which receives transmitted multimedia data in a JPEG format, comprising:

a receiving portion for receiving the transmitted multimedia data;

a data analyzing portion for analyzing the contents of the received multimedia data to generate output attribute data about data type (a natural painting or a line drawing) of the multimedia data;

a data managing portion for managing and storing the received multimedia data and the generated output attribute data; and

a data output portion which determines a method of displaying the multimedia data by referring to the output attribute data.

As stated above, the twenty-second to twenty-eighth aspects show data communication devices and receiving terminal devices used in the data communication systems of the seventeenth to twenty-first aspects. The useful effects of the present invention can thus be obtained even only with a data communication device or a receiving terminal device.

Particularly, the receiving terminal device of the twenty-

drawing) and a recommended screen size suited to display of the multimedia data; and

transmitting the multimedia data together with the corresponding output attribute data.

- 5 A thirty-first aspect is directed to a recording medium on which a program to be executed on a computer device is recorded for realizing an operation environment on the computer device, the program comprising the steps of:

receiving multimedia data in a JPEG format and output attribute
10 data comprising information about at least one of its data type (a natural painting or a line drawing) and a recommended screen size suited to its display;

managing and storing the multimedia data and the output attribute data received; and

- 15 determining a method of displaying the multimedia data on the basis of the output attribute data.

These and other objects, features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description of the present invention when taken in
20 conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG.1 is a block diagram showing the structure of a data broadcast system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

- 25 FIG.2 is a diagram showing an example of the relation among

multimedia data.

FIG.3 is a diagram showing an example of a table 130 defining types of multimedia data.

FIG.4 is a flowchart showing one example of a process in which
5 the data broadcasting device 1 generates output attribute data from multimedia data.

FIG.5 is a flowchart showing another example of a process in which the data broadcasting device 1 generates output attribute data from multimedia data.

10 FIG.6 is a diagram showing examples of output attribute data tables for storing the output attribute data.

FIG.7 is a diagram showing examples of output attribute data embedded in HTML data and screens displaying the data.

15 FIG.8 is a diagram showing an example of the output attribute data embedded in JPEG data.

FIG.9 is a diagram showing the structure of MOT data 911.

FIG.10 is a flowchart showing an example of a process in which the receiving terminal device 2 displays HTML data using output attribute data.

20 FIG.11 is a diagram showing examples of screen displays presented in the data display portion 25.

FIG.12 is a flowchart showing an example of a process in which the receiving terminal device 2 displays JPEG data using the output attribute data.

25 FIG.13 is a flowchart showing an example of a process in which

the receiving terminal device 2 sets an output attribute of JPEG data.

FIG.14 is a flowchart showing an example of a process in which the receiving terminal device 2 displays JPEG data.

FIG.15 is a diagram showing an example of the output attribute data embedded in JPEG data.

FIG.16 is a flowchart showing an example of a process in which the receiving terminal device 2 displays JPEG data using the output attribute data.

10 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described referring to the drawings.

FIG.1 is a block diagram showing the structure of a data broadcast system according to an embodiment of the invention. In FIG.1, the data broadcast system of this embodiment includes a data broadcasting device 1 for broadcasting multimedia data and a receiving terminal device 2 for receiving the broadcast multimedia data and displaying the multimedia data according to instructions from a user.

First, the structure of the data broadcasting device 1 in the data broadcast system of this embodiment will be described in detail. Referring to FIG.1, the data broadcasting device 1 includes a data storage portion 11, a file manager 12, a data analyzing portion 13, a protocol encoder 14, and a transmitter 15.

The file manager 12 manages data stored in the data storage portion 11. The file manager 12 also controls data reading and data

For the form in which the output attribute data is stored in the data storage portion 11, the output attribute data may be stored in a separate file associated with the corresponding multimedia data, or the output attribute data may be embedded in the corresponding multimedia data and stored, for example.

The multimedia data and output attribute data outputted from the file manager 12 undergo a predetermined encoding process (e.g. multiple encoding in DAB) in the protocol encoder 14 and broadcast toward the receiving terminal device 2 through the transmitter 15.

For the method of encoding the output attribute data, the output attribute data may be encoded alone or may be embedded in the multimedia data and encoded.

Next the structure of the receiving terminal device 2 in the data broadcast system of this embodiment will be described in detail.

Referring to FIG.1, the receiving terminal device 2 includes a tuner 21, a protocol decoder 22, a file manager 23, a data analyzing

portion 24, a data storage portion 25, and a data display portion 26.

The tuner 21 receives the encoded multimedia data and output attribute data broadcast from the data broadcasting device 1. The protocol decoder 22 decodes the data received at the tuner 21 to restore the original multimedia data and output attribute data. The restored data are outputted to the file manager 23. The file manager 23 manages data stored in the data storage portion 25. The file manager 23 also controls data reading and data writing from and in the data storage portion 25. When the output attribute data is embedded in the multimedia data, the data analyzing portion 24 separates the output attribute data from the multimedia data when required. When the output attribute data and the multimedia data are in separate files, the data analyzing portion 24 embeds the output attribute data in the multimedia data when required. The file manager 23 stores the multimedia data and the output attribute data in the data storage portion 25. The file manager 23 reads the stored data at any time according to an instruction from a user, and the contents of the data are displayed in the data display portion 26. When multimedia data is displayed in the data display portion 26, the output attribute data corresponding to that multimedia data is referred to and the additional information based on the output attribute data is displayed together.

Now more specifically discussed referring to FIGS.2 to 7 are the processes in which the data broadcast system of the embodiment of the invention generates, distributes and receives the output attribute data and displays the multimedia data using the output

attribute data.

In this embodiment of the invention, HTML data is explained as an example of multimedia data having a link structure and JPEG data is explained as an example of multimedia data of images, and methods for generating their output attribute data will be described.

First, a relation among data is described referring to FIG.2. FIG.2 shows the relation among multimedia data used in the description below.

Data 121 to data 123 are HTML data (with extensions [.html]). Data 124 and data 125 are JPEG data (with extensions [.jpg]). Data 126 to data 128 are output attribute data generated from the data 121, data 122 and data 125, respectively (with extensions [.atr] in this example). The data 123 and data 124 exist on the outside. Seen from the data broadcasting device 1, the data existing outside are multimedia data existing on the Internet, for example, which are, seen from the receiving terminal device 2, multimedia data not received, or not stored in the data storage portion 25.

It is assumed that the data 121 and data 122 are linked bidirectionally and the data 122 is linked to the data 123 to data 125 (the linked relation is shown by arrows in FIG.2)

FIG.3 is a diagram showing an example of a table 130 defining types of the multimedia data. In the table 130 of FIG.3, multimedia data are provided with data type IDs and signs in correspondence with their type.

HTML data has a data type ID "0" and a sign "L". The sign "L"

is the initial letter of "LINK". JPEG natural painting data has a data type ID "1" and a sign "P." The sign "P" is the initial letter of "PAINT." JPEG line drawing data has a data type ID "2" and a sign "D." The sign "D" is the initial letter of "DRAW." The numbers and letters used in
5 the data type IDs and signs are just examples, which can be freely customized as long as they match between the data broadcasting device 1 and the receiving terminal device 2.

Now discussed referring to FIGS.4 and 5 is how the data broadcasting device 1 generates and manages the output attribute data
10 considering the link information of HTML data and the type information of JPEG data, where the data related as shown above are used.

First, referring to FIG.4, the data broadcasting device 1 searches the multimedia data in the data storage portion 11 (step S401) and decides whether there is any multimedia data for which the output
15 attribute data is to be generated (hereinafter referred to as target multimedia data; step S402). The target searched for in step S402 is basically multimedia data with which the output attribute data has not generated yet. However, when updating existing data, for example, multimedia data whose output attribute data has been already generated
20 may be the target. When the decision made in step S402 shows that there is target multimedia data, the data broadcasting device 1 generates an output attribute data table (step S403). On the other hand, when the decision in step S402 shows absence of target multimedia data, the data broadcasting device 1 ends this process. The output attribute
25 data will be described in detail later.

Next the data broadcasting device 1 decides the type of the target multimedia data (step S404). In this embodiment, the step S404 decides whether the multimedia data is in the HTML form, JPEG form, or other form. When the decision of step S404 shows that the target multimedia data is HTML data, the data broadcasting device 1 generates HTML form output attribute data and sets the data in the output attribute data table (step S405). When the decision made in step S404 shows that the target multimedia data is JPEG data, the data broadcasting device 1 further decides which image type the JPEG data is of (whether it is a natural painting or line drawing; see FIG.3) (step S406). The data broadcasting device 1 then generates output attribute data of the JPEG form on the basis of the image type and sets the data in the output attribute data table (step S407). On the other hand, if the decision made in step S404 shows that the target multimedia data is data other than HTML and JPEG, the data broadcasting device 1 discards the output attribute data table generated in step S403 (step S411) and returns to S401 to search for next multimedia data.

The type of the multimedia data can be usually found with ease through the extension added to the file name.

Next, when the target multimedia data is HTML data, the data broadcasting device 1 operates to generate the output attribute data about multimedia data linked to the HTML data (linked data).

Referring to FIG.5, after setting the output attribute data of the target multimedia data (step S405), the data broadcasting device

1 takes out information about linked data in the target multimedia data (step S501). The data broadcasting device 1 then decides, on the basis of the information taken out, whether any linked data is present (inside or outside the data storage portion 11; step S502) and whether
5 the linked data is obtainable (step S503). When the decision of step S502 shows absence of linked data, the data broadcasting device 1 moves to step S408 without generating output attribute data about linked data. When the decision of step S503 shows that the linked data is not obtainable, the flow returns to step S501 to take out information
10 about the next linked data.

When the decision made in step S503 shows that the linked data can be obtained, the data broadcasting device 1 obtains the linked data and decides its type (step S504). In this embodiment, the step S504 decides whether the multimedia data is in the HTML form, JPEG
15 form or other form. If the decision made in step S504 shows that the linked data is HTML data, the data broadcasting device 1 analyzes the HTML data (step S505), generates the output attribute data of the HTML form and sets the data in the output attribute data table (step S507). When the decision made in step S504 shows that the linked data is JPEG
20 data, the data broadcasting device 1 further decides the image type of the JPEG data (step S506). The data broadcasting device 1 then generates the output attribute data of JPEG form on the basis of the image type and sets the data in the output attribute data table (step S507). When the decision of step S504 shows that the linked data is
25 data other than HTML and JPEG, the data broadcasting device 1 returns

to step S501 to take out information about the next linked data.

The processing in steps S501 to S507 are applied to all linked data in the target multimedia data.

Referring to FIG.4 again, the data broadcasting device 1 next
5 decides whether or not to embed the set output attribute data in the target multimedia data (step S408). The decision made in step S408 as to whether or not to embed may be given on the basis of a flag, etc., specified by a user, or may be defined in the system in advance, or may be decided for each piece of multimedia data. The method of
10 making decision can be arbitrarily decided in the system. When the step S408 decides to embed, the data broadcasting device 1 then embeds the output attribute data in the target multimedia data (step S409); when it decides not to embed, the data broadcasting device 1 stores the output attribute data as another file in the data storage portion
15 11 (step S410). When the output attribute data is stored as a separate file, the output attribute data can be associated with the target multimedia data by giving the file the same name as the target multimedia data and an extension [.atr].

Next the structure of the output attribute data is specifically
20 explained.

FIG.6 is a diagram showing specific examples of the output attribute data table for storing the output attribute data.

The table 161 shown in (a) of FIG.6 is an output attribute data table showing the contents of the output attribute data 127 [Base.atr]
25 about the HTML data 122 [Base.html] of FIG.2. The HTML data 122 is

HTML data as shown in FIG.7. The table 162 shown in (b) of FIG.6 is an output attribute data table showing the contents of the output attribute data 128 [P2.atr] about the JPEG data 125 [P2.jpg] of FIG.2. The table 163 shown in (c) of FIG.6 is an output attribute data table showing the contents of the output attribute data 126 [Top.atr] about the HTML data 121 [Top.html] of FIG.2.

The table 161 shows a plurality of items which are recorded as the output attribute data in the column direction. The output attribute data are recorded in the row direction in the table 161 for each piece of data linked to the target multimedia data.

The link ID is an identification code assigned to the linked data in the HTML data 122. The link IDs are managed with serial numbers starting from "0"; the link ID = 0 specifically shows the output attribute data of the target multimedia data with which the output attribute data table is associated. That is to say, the output attribute data of the HTML data 122 is recorded in the link ID = 0 in the table 161. Since the maximum value of the link ID in the table 161 is "42," it is known that 42 links to multimedia data are in the HTML data 122. Character strings showing the storage locations of the linked data are recorded in URL (Uniform Resource Locator). These character strings are each set within a link tag represented by "<A" and "" in the HTML format data. The values of the data type ID defined in the aforementioned table 130 of FIG.3 are recorded as the data type in accordance with the type of the linked data. The number of links to multimedia data in the linked data is recorded as the link

number. When the linked data is not in the HTML format, e.g. when it is JPEG data, then the value "0" is recorded in the link number. Recorded in the image number is the number of sheets of images included in the linked data. When the linked data is not in the HTML format, e.g. when it is JPEG data, the value "1" is recorded in the image number. The amount of data of the linked data represented in Kbytes is recorded as the data size.

It is known from the table 161 containing the linked data information that 42 pieces of linked data are in the HTML data 122; the following items can be known about the linked data by referring to the records: the URL, data type, number of links, number of images and data size.

A specific example of analysis of the HTML data 122 shown in FIG.7 is described referred to (a) of FIG.6.

First, the output attribute data of the HTML data 122 itself is recorded in the record of link ID = 0. The output attribute data shows the following information: the URL of the HTML data 122 is file name [Base.html], the data type is HTML, the number of links is 42, the number of images is 23, and the data size is about 11 Kbytes. It is easily known from the extension [-.html] that the data type is HTML. The link number = 42 in the record of link ID = 0 coincides with the maximum value 42 of the link ID in the table 161, and the image number = 23 coincides with the number of records of the data type 1 or 2 in the table 161.

Next, the record of link ID = 1 contains the output attribute

data of the linked data corresponding to the link tag R1 in the HTML data 122. This output attribute data shows that the linked data of the link tag R1 resides in an external WWW server and its data type is HTML. That the linked data resides in an external WWW server is easily known from the URL [http://www-]. Further, the following information can be obtained about the linked data [Basel.html] by analyzing the data: the link number is 12, the image number is 5 and the data size is about 2 Kbytes. The link number, image number and data size can be obtained by extracting image tags or link tags of the target HTML data and analyzing the contents specified there.

Next, the record of the link ID = 2 contains the output attribute data of the linked data corresponding to the link tag R2 in the HTML data 122. The output attribute data shows that the linked data of the link tag R2 resides in an external WWW server and its data type is JPEG. It is easily known from the extension [-.jpg] that the data type is JPEG. Further, it is known by analyzing the linked data [Pl.jpg] that the data [Pl.jpg] is a natural painting and the data size is about 5 Kbytes. Since the data [Pl.jpg] is JPEG data, the link number is 0 and the image number is 1. The image type of the JPEG data can be found by a known technique used in image recognition. For example, whether JPEG data is a line drawing or natural painting can be generally decided through the distribution of color density of the image. For the color density, a line drawing exhibits a rapidly varying distribution and a natural painting exhibits a gentle distribution. Accordingly the two can be distinguished by calculating the color

density differences between adjacent pixels and analyzing them with a proper threshold.

Next, the record of the link ID = 3 contains the output attribute data of the linked data corresponding to the link tag R3 in the HTML data 122. The output attribute data shows that the linked data of the link tag R3 resides in the data storage portion 11 and its data type is JPEG. It is easily known from the URL[../-] that the linked data resides in the data storage portion 11. Further, it is known by analyzing the linked data [P2.jpg] that the data [P2.jpg] is a line drawing and the data size is about 3 Kbytes. Since the data [P2.jpg] is JPEG data, the link number is 0 and the image number is 1.

Similarly, the record of the link ID = 42 contains the output attribute data of the linked data corresponding to the link tag R42 in the HTML data 122. The output attribute data shows that the linked data of the link tag R42 resides in the data storage portion 11 and its data type is HTML. Further, it is known by analyzing the linked data [/Top.html] that the link number of the data [/Top.html] is 74, the image number is 15, and the data size is about 2 Kbytes.

The table 163 shown in (c) of FIG.6 is an output attribute data table showing the contents of the output attribute data 126 [Top.atr] about the HTML data 121 [Top.html] of FIG.2. While the contents of the table 163 are not described here since they are clear from the description about the table 161, the contents of the record of the link ID = 0 in the table 163 are the same as the record in the link ID = 42 in the table 161 except the URL. The URL is represented in

different ways in the table 161 and the table 163 though they describe the same multimedia data, since the two tables are associated with different entities (multimedia data).

The contents of the record of the link ID = 74 in the table 163 are the same as the record of the link ID = 0 in the table 161 except the URL.

The table 162 shown in (b) of FIG.6 is an output attribute data table showing the contents of the output attribute data 128 [P2.atr] about the JPEG data 125 [P2.jpg] of FIG.2. Since the data [P2.jpg] is JPEG data, it has no link to other multimedia data. Accordingly its output attribute data only contains the record of the link ID = 0 showing the contents of the target multimedia data itself. The contents set in the link ID = 0 are the same as the record of the link ID = 3 in the table 161 shown in (a) of FIG.6 except the URL.

As has been explained about the steps S409 and S410 in the flowchart of FIG.4, the generated output attribute data is embedded in the target multimedia data or is stored in a separate file. When the output attribute data is stored in a separate file, it is easily known by changing the extension as described above that the file is a storage of output attribute data and to which multimedia data file the file is related.

Hence, next, a method of storing the output attribute data while embedding it in the multimedia data will be described below in examples of multimedia data of the HTML format and the JPEG format.

First, a method of embedding the output attribute data in HTML

data is described.

Referring to FIG.7, the link tags R1, R2 ... R42 in the HTML data 122 correspond to the records of the link IDs = 1, 2 ... 42 in the table 161 shown in (a) of FIG.6. The output attribute data 127

5 in FIG.7 corresponds to the table 161 shown in (a) of FIG.6.

The data 701 shown in FIG.7 is a diagram showing the output attribute data 127 embedded in the HTML data 122. In the data 701, the underlined text parts correspond to the embedded output attribute data. Note that the underlines are provided only for description, which
10 are absent in practice.

The underlined parts (surrounded by "<!--" to "-->") are handled as comments in the HTML format, which are not displayed in the data display portion 26. In the example of this embodiment, a new ATR tag is defined in the comment part; the output attribute data is embedded
15 in the part surrounded by "<ATR>" to "</ATR>." The output attribute data is composed of the four numbers surrounded by "[" and "]" and sectioned by ",". These four numbers respectively correspond to the items set in the table 161 shown in (a) of FIG.6; the first item shows the data type, the second item shows the link number, the third item
20 shows the image number and the fourth item shows the data size. The link tag T1 of the data 701 contains the following output attributes embedded therein: data type = 0, link number = 12, image number = 5, and data size = 2.

Next, a method for embedding the output attribute data in JPEG
25 data will be described.

The format of JPEG data contains a region called application data segment, where arbitrary values other than the image data are set and used. In the example of this embodiment, the image type of JPEG data described above is embedded in this region.

5 The structure of the JPEG data is described in detail in "ITU-T White Book, Recommendations on Digital Still Image Compression Encoding, The ITU Association Of Japan. Inc," for example.

FIG.8 is a diagram showing an example of the application data segment region, in which the image type of JPEG data is embedded.

10 A marker code indicating the meaning of the segment of the JPEG data is set in two bytes in the region 810. The JPEG standard defines 16 codes from "0xFFE0" to "0xFFEF" available as the marker code of the application data segment. The example of the embodiment uses "0xFFEF" among them. The data length of the application segment is
15 set in the region 811; the total number of bytes of the region 812 and the region 813 is set in two bytes. In the example of this embodiment, this total number of bytes is six bytes. A character code is set in the region 812, which indicates that a flag showing the image type of the JPEG data is set in the following region 813. In the example
20 of this embodiment, four letters "K, I, N, D" are set in four bytes. In the region 813, a numerical value showing the image type of the JPEG data is set in two bytes. The value set in the region 813 is the data type shown in the table 130 of FIG.3 about the JPEG data. Since this value is "1" in the example shown in FIG.8, it is known that the
25 JPEG data is a natural painting.

The output attribute data and multimedia data described above are broadcast from the data broadcasting device 1 in a given system (e.g. DAB) and received at the receiving terminal device 2. DAB defines a transfer protocol called MOT (Multimedia Object Transfer) as the highest-order protocol for data transfer. The MOT protocol is now described.

FIG. 9 is diagram showing the structure of MOT data 911 according to the MOT protocol. As shown in FIG. 9, the MOT data 911 is composed of a MOT header 912 and a MOT body 913. The MOT body 913 is the multimedia data. The MOT header 912 describes the attributes of the data transferred in the MOT body 913, such as the type of data, name of the data file, etc. The receiving terminal device 2 receives the MOT data 911 and takes out the multimedia data from the MOT data 911 to perform appropriate processing.

In the example of this embodiment, the multimedia data 914 and the output attribute data 915 described so far are set in the MOT body 913 and broadcast. The multimedia data present in the data broadcasting device 1 and its output attribute data can thus be transferred to the receiving terminal device 2.

In the data broadcasting device 1, the multimedia data 914 and the output attribute data 915 are stored in the MOT data 911 and then stored in a lower-order protocol of DAB (not shown) and broadcast. In the receiving terminal device 2, the tuner 21 receives the broadcast data. The protocol decoder 22 decodes the received broadcast data to the MOT data 911 and takes out the MOT header 912 and the MOT

body 913. The protocol decoder 22 then outputs the MOT body 913 taken out, i.e. the multimedia data 914 and the output attribute data 915, to the file manager 23.

Next, a method of displaying the multimedia data using the
5 received output attribute data in the receiving terminal device 2 will be described.

Now, referring to FIGS.7, 10 to 12, examples of displaying HTML data and JPEG data will be described.

First, a method for displaying HTML data using the output
10 attribute data about the HTML data will be described.

Referring to FIG.10, the receiving terminal device 2 first analyzes the structure of the display target HTML data and obtains various tag information (step S1001). At the same time, if output attributes are set in the comment line of the anchor tags, the receiving
15 terminal device 2 obtains them. Next, the receiving terminal device 2 examines whether output attributes are set in the HTML data (and in the comment line of the anchor tags; step S1002). When the examination in step S1002 shows that output attributes are set, the receiving terminal device 2 then displays the output attributes in
20 a given form (step S1005). When anchor tags are present, the receiving terminal device 2 displays the anchor tags and the output attributes in a given form (step S1005). When the examination in step S1002 shows that no output attributes are set, the receiving terminal device 2 decides that the output attributes of the HTML data are not set in
25 the HTML data and further examines whether another file having the

is embedded in the HTML data 122.

The first method is described first. The output attribute data 127 of the HTML data 122 is data as shown in the table 161 of (a) of FIG.6. When displaying the link tags R1, R2 ... R42 of the HTML data 122, the data display portion 26 refers to the output attribute data 127 recorded as shown in the table 161 in another file. Thus, as shown as P1, P2 ... P42 in the display screen 703, the attributes are displayed together with the contents of the linked data. For example, the output attributes of the link tag R1 in the HTML data 122 are the values recorded in the link ID = 1 in the table 161.

The items shown as P1, P2 ... P42 in the display screen 703 show the following information: the first alphabet indicates the data type in the table 161; "L" shows the data type "0" or HTML data, "p" shows the data type "1" or JPEG natural painting data, and "D" shows the data type "2" or JPEG line drawing data. The second number shows the number of links. The third number shows the number of images. The fourth number shows the data size.

Next, the second method is described. When displaying T1, T2 ... T42 in the data 701, the data display portion 26 refers to the output attribute data 127 set in the HTML data 122. Thus, as shown as P1, P2 ... P42 in the display screen 703, the attributes are displayed together with the contents of the linked data. For example, since [0, 12, 5, 2] are set in T1 in the data 701, the display screen 703 displays [L, 12, 5, 2] as shown in P1.

As a result, a user can know the outline of the output attributes

of the linked data of the multimedia data currently referred to without actually displaying the linked data. The user can thus efficiently refer to the data. That is to say, with the receiving terminal device 2, it is possible to know the type, link number, size, etc., of the data if the output attribute data can be obtained, even if the linked data is not received or absent in the data broadcasting device 1.

While the output attributes of related linked data are displayed in text format like letters and numerical values in this embodiment, the output attributes can be represented by icons, voice, etc., if the receiving terminal device 2 has a sufficient image display capability, etc.

The data broadcast from the data broadcasting device 1 include the three kinds: multimedia data, output attribute data, and multimedia data in which the output attribute data is embedded. However, the receiving terminal device 2 does not only store the data in the data storage portion 25 and utilize the data when presenting display in the data display portion 26. When the multimedia data and the output attribute data are in separate files, the receiving terminal device 2 may embed the output attribute data in the multimedia data and then store the data in the data storage portion 25. On the other hand, when the multimedia data embeds the output attribute data, the receiving terminal device 2 may separate the output attribute data from the multimedia data and store the multimedia data and the output attribute data in separate files in the data storage portion 25. Further, the receiving terminal device 2 may generate new output attribute data

using the data analyzing portion 24 as needed.

This processing is achieved by extracting the aforementioned parts from "<!--<ATR>" to "</ATR>->" and the URLs in the link tags from HTML data embedding the output attribute data and converting them into the output attribute data table. For the output attribute data set in JPEG data, a table containing only the link ID = 0 is generated on the basis of the output attribute data, where the file name of the JPEG data is recorded as URL, the image type set in the marker code "0xFFEF" is recorded as the data type, "1" is recorded as the image number, and the size of the data file expressed in Kbytes is recorded as the data size.

In this way, according to the technique described above, the type, link number, size, etc., of linked data can be previously known without displaying the linked data. Next, a technique of further improving the convenience of the user will be described, where the state of the linked data is also displayed.

As already stated, the multimedia data received at the receiving terminal device 2 is classified into multimedia data present in the data broadcasting device 1 and multimedia data present not in the data broadcasting device 1 but on the outside. The former multimedia data is sequentially broadcast according to a broadcast program and so they are received at the receiving terminal device 2 at different times. The latter multimedia data is not broadcast, so the user must externally obtain the data according to a specified protocol.

The linked data in the multimedia data that the receiving

terminal device 2 displays in the screen are classified as follows:

- (1) data already received at the receiving terminal device 2,
- (2) data not yet received at the receiving terminal device 2,
- (3) data not received at the receiving terminal device 2 through

5 broadcasting.

However, such classification does not appear in the display screen 703 of FIG.7. For example, when P3 corresponds to the data (2) and P42 corresponds to the data (1), the user cannot know from the display screen 703 that the display of "total menu" is executable but
10 the display of "graph" is not executable yet. This requires the user to try extra operation to know whether the data has arrived.

Accordingly, the receiving terminal device 2 manages presence/absence of data reception while referring to the output attribute data as described above, thus deciding which of (1) to (3)
15 the multimedia data correspond to. That is to say, the receiving terminal device 2 decides that multimedia data corresponds to (3) on the basis of the URL [http://www-] and decides that multimedia data corresponds to (1) or (2) on the basis of the URL [../-] and presence/absence of data reception.

20 The receiving terminal device 2 then presents such a screen display as shown in FIG.11 according to the decisions. In the example of (a) of FIG.11, for a display of linked data of (2), characters "Data has not arrived" are displayed when the select cursor is set on the screen display. In the example of (b) of FIG.11, for a display of linked
25 data of (3), characters "External data. Access?" are displayed when

the select cursor is set on the screen display, which is followed by selectively executable items "1: Yes. 2: NO".

Thus displaying the state of the linked data in the screen saves the user tracing undisplayable linked locations, thus eliminating the
5 need of troublesome operation beforehand (the operation of returning when the linked data is absent).

Although the state of linked data is displayed with characters in the example above, it may be provided through voice output. Alternatively, it may be shown by varying the tone on the display screen
10 independently of the position of the select cursor.

Next a method of displaying JPEG data using output attribute data about the JPEG data will be described.

Referring to FIG.12, the receiving terminal device 2 first examines whether the image type (output attribute data) of the JPEG
15 data is embedded in the JPEG data (step S1201). As shown in FIG.8, the information about the image type is set in the application data segment having the marker code "0xFFEF" in the JPEG data, so the receiving terminal device 2 examines the segment regions 811 to 813. When the examination of step S1201 finds the "KIND" item in the region
20 812, then the receiving terminal device 2 takes out the value in the region 813 as the image type of the JPEG data (step S1202). When the "KIND" item is not set in the region 812, the receiving terminal device 2 decides that the image type of the JPEG data is not set in the JPEG data and further examines whether another file having the extension
25 [.atr] and the same file name is present (step S1203). When the

examination of step S1203 finds another file, the receiving terminal device 2 then obtains the JPEG data image type from the file and sets it (step S1204); when there is no separate file, it sets the image type as line drawing "2" as default (step S1205).

5 After setting the image type of the JPEG data, the receiving terminal device 2 decodes the JPEG data (step S1206). Subsequently, the receiving terminal device 2 refers to the set image type (step S1207). When the image type is "1" or a natural painting image, the receiving terminal device 2 applies dithering to the decoded image
10 and displays it in the data display portion 26 (step S1208); otherwise it displays the decoded image as it is in the data display portion 26 (step S1209).

In this way, when the output attribute data about JPEG data is broadcast independently or being embedded in the JPEG data, the
15 receiving terminal device 2 can receive the data and present an image display in accordance with the data type. Further, since the output attribute data described herein is set in a region to be arbitrarily referred to in the JPEG data (the application data segment), structures displaying JPEG other than that of this embodiment can display the
20 images without problems.

The description has shown examples using the output attribute data which have been set in the data broadcasting device 1. However, this data broadcast system has the data analyzing portion 24 in the receiving terminal device 2. The receiving terminal device 2 is
25 therefore capable of newly generating the output attribute data on

the basis of multimedia data stored inside even if only the multimedia data is broadcast (when the output attribute data is not broadcast). The receiving terminal device 2 is also capable of changing the contents of the output attribute data broadcast from the data broadcasting device 1 as needed. Now an example of changing the setting about dithering to JPEG data will be described.

The methods for setting the output attribute data of JPEG data in the receiving terminal device 2 include a first method of changing the output attribute data embedded in JPEG data, a second method of changing the output attribute data set in a file separate from the JPEG data, and a third method of deleting the output attribute data embedded in the JPEG data.

The first method is now described referring to FIG.13.

When displaying an image of JPEG data, the receiving terminal device 2 decides whether or not to apply dithering (step S1301). The decision of step S1301 is made on the basis of whether the display screen of the receiving terminal device 2 has resolution high enough to eliminate the need of dithering, whether the processing load of dithering should be removed, etc. When the step S1301 decides to apply dithering, the receiving terminal device 2 presumes the JPEG data to be a natural painting and sets "1" in the image type region in the application data segment having the marker code "0xFFEF" in the JPEG data (step S1302). On the other hand, when the step S1301 decides not to apply dithering, the receiving terminal device 2 presumes the JPEG data to be a line drawing and sets "2" in the image type region (step

S1303).

The second method is realized by changing the data type in the output attribute data stored in another file to the image type presumed as above in the steps S1302 and S1303 of FIG.13.

5 The third method can be realized by deleting the application data segment having the marker code "0xFFEF" in the JPEG data and then generating output attribute data containing the presumed image type in steps S1302 and S1303 of FIG.13. When changing the setting not to apply dithering, it can be achieved just by deleting the application
10 data segment (the original JPEG data is recovered).

As described above, JPEG images can be displayed with high visibility by setting the output attribute data of the JPEG images in the data broadcasting device 1 and referring to the data at the time of displaying them in the receiving terminal device 2. Further,
15 the receiving terminal device 2 can change the output attribute data set in the JPEG images to store the JPEG data in the original format with the information added in the data broadcasting device 1 removed. The receiving terminal device 2 can also redistribute the JPEG data in the original format.

20 Next, another method for displaying JPEG data using their output attribute data is described.

Suppose that the receiving terminal device 2 is a mobile telephone. As is known, though recent mobile telephones have larger display screens, their area is limited not to deteriorate the
25 portability as mobile telephones. Accordingly a user may connect the

mobile telephone to a personal computer, car navigation, etc., (which are referred to as display devices hereinafter) to see the received data displayed in an enlarged form in their larger screen, instead of seeing it in a small screen of the mobile telephone.

5 However, data which the mobile telephones can receive are generally created to fit the standard display screen size of the mobile telephones. Hence, the following problems are encountered when data provided to be received and used in mobile telephones is displayed in a larger screen of a display device in an enlarged form:

10 1. When pixels of the display screen of the display device outnumber those in the received image, the received image is displayed in a small area in the display screen without being enlarged.

 2. When the number of pixels of the display device is small, oblique lines, etc., in the received image are displayed in an enlarged
15 form but as lines not smooth (with saw-like edges).

 In order to solve the first problem, the received image may be enlarged by assigning one pixel in the image to a plurality of pixels in the display device. However this leads to the second problem. That is to say, the second problem occurs when data provided to be received
20 and used in mobile telephones is displayed in an enlarged form in a large screen of a display device. When this problem occurs, a natural painting is displayed with gradation varying in rough grades, which will not look good. Further, oblique lines in a line drawing may have a saw-like appearance.

25 The receiving terminal device 2 hence performs the following

processing.

Referring to FIG.14, the receiving terminal device 2 first displays the received image in the screen (step S1401). Whether to apply dithering to the image displayed in the screen in this step S1401 may be decided according to a default process previously defined in the receiving terminal device 2 or may be decided on the basis of the aforementioned output attribute data (which may be generated in either the data broadcasting device 1 or the receiving terminal device 2).

Next a user judges whether the image is being desirably displayed in the screen (step S1402). Whether the display is desirable can be judged by the user on the basis of whether the gradation in a natural painting is harshly displayed to form stripes, whether lines in a line drawing may have a saw-like appearance, whether the whole image is unclear and illegible, etc. The user indicates the decision to the display device (e.g. the user enters the decision with a remote controller, etc.) When receiving an indication that the display is not preferred from the user, the receiving terminal device 2 examines whether the displayed image has undergone dithering (step S1403). When the image is dither-processed, the receiving terminal device 2 removes the dithering (step S1404); when the image is not dither-processed, it applies dithering to the image (step S1405). The receiving terminal device 2 then displays the image again (step S1406). Thus the user can see a preferably displayed image.

The receiving terminal device 2 may decide whether to apply dithering to the image on the basis of the display screen size of the

display device.

First, the data broadcasting device 1 generates output attribute data which gives a recommended display screen size capable of presenting preferable display without dithering. The output attribute data may be generated in a separate file from the JPEG data or embedded in the JPEG data as stated above. In the latter case, the data broadcasting device 1 defines the marker code of the segment for storing the output attribute data as "0xFFEE" as shown in FIG.15, for example. The data broadcasting device 1 then stores the longitudinal size and lateral size of the recommended display screen size in the application segment region having the marker code "0xFFEE".

When receiving the output attribute data giving such a recommended display screen size, the receiving terminal device 2 operates as below.

Referring to FIG.16, the receiving terminal device 2 first obtains the display screen size of the display device (step S1601). The receiving terminal device 2 can obtain the display screen size from the display device through its own interface. Next, the receiving terminal device 2 analyzes the output attribute data about the received image and obtains the recommended display image size (step S1602). The receiving terminal device 2 then compares the display screen size of the display device and the recommended display screen size (step S1603). When the display screen size of the display device is larger than the recommended display screen size in step S1603, the receiving terminal device 2 applies dithering to the received image (step S1604)

and displays it in the screen (step S1605). On the other hand, when the display screen size of the display device is smaller than the recommended display screen size in step S1603, the receiving terminal device 2 displays the received image as it is in the screen without
5 applying dithering (step S1605). The steps S1402 to 1406 of FIG.14 may be performed after the image is displayed in the screen in the step S1605 so that the user can select the image display.

While the dithering is particularly effective when an image is seen in a large screen, it may be effective also when an image is
10 seen in a small screen on a mobile telephone, etc. Usually, to display a larger number of characters within a screen of limited size, a reduced number of pixels are used per character. However, in mobile telephones, the number of pixels per character is fixed in text display. Now, if character information is displayed not in text display but in graphic
15 display as of JPEG image, a larger number of characters can be displayed using smaller characters. However, if the characters are too small, they are ruined in shape and become illegible. When dithering is applied to such small characters, their outlines can be vaguely displayed, which may allow the user to figure out the characters more
20 easily.

As described so far, according to the data broadcast system of the embodiment of the invention, the receiving terminal device 2 receives multimedia data and output attribute data broadcast from the data broadcasting device 1, and stores, manages and displays the data.
25 It also processes the multimedia data to generate the output attribute

data from the multimedia data, to embed the output attribute data into the multimedia data, etc.

In the case of a system where the receiving terminal device 2 further distributes multimedia data to another receiving terminal device (when the receiving terminal device 2 has a function as a relay center, for example), the data analyzing portion 24 in the receiving terminal device 2 may be provided with the function to generate the output attribute data. In this case, the data broadcasting device 1 is not necessarily required to generate the output attribute data; it can broadcast only the multimedia data.

For the method of providing from the transmitting side to the receiving side the display attribute about JPEG data, i.e. the information as to whether or not to apply dithering on the basis of whether it is a natural painting or line drawing, the method can be applied not only to the data broadcasts described in this embodiment but also to various common data communications. This method is especially effective for receiving terminal devices with lower performance.

While the invention has been described in detail, the foregoing description is in all aspects illustrative and not restrictive. It is understood that numerous other modifications and variations can be devised without departing from the scope of the invention.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A data broadcast system comprising a data broadcasting device provided in a broadcasting station which broadcasts multimedia data and a receiving terminal device receiving the multimedia data broadcast from the data broadcasting device,

5 wherein said data broadcasting device comprises;

data analyzing means for analyzing the contents of said multimedia data and generating output attribute data corresponding to said multimedia data, and

10 data transmitting means for broadcasting said multimedia data together with said output attribute data, and

said receiving terminal device comprises;

receiving means for receiving said multimedia data and said output attribute data which are broadcast,

15 data managing means for managing and storing said multimedia data and said output attribute data which are received, and

data output means for outputting said multimedia data together with its attribute information by referring to said output attribute data.

2. The data broadcast system according to claim 1, wherein

said data broadcasting device further comprises means for embedding said output attribute data generated by said data analyzing means in said multimedia data, and

5 said data transmitting means broadcasts said multimedia data
in which said output attribute data is embedded.

3. The data broadcast system according to claim 2, wherein said
receiving terminal device further comprises data extracting means for
extracting from said received multimedia data said output attribute
data embedded therein and outputting said output attribute data to
5 said data managing means, and

 said data managing means manages said output attribute data
extracted by said data extracting means separately from corresponding
said multimedia data.

4. The data broadcast system according to claim 1, wherein said
receiving terminal device further comprises data analyzing means for
analyzing the contents of said received multimedia data and newly
generating said output attribute data about said multimedia data.

5. The data broadcast system according to claim 1, wherein
said data managing means further manages a state of reception
about data linked to said multimedia data, and

 said data output means outputs a state of data linked to said
5 multimedia data by referring to said state of reception as well as
said output attribute data.

6. The data broadcast system according to claim 1, wherein when said multimedia data is data in an HTML format,

said output attribute data comprises information about data linked to said multimedia data, concerning at least one of its file
5 name, the number of images contained therein, its data size, and the number of data pieces further linked thereto.

7. The data broadcast system according to claim 1, wherein when said multimedia data is data in an JPEG format,

said output attribute data comprises information about at least one of data type of said multimedia data (a natural painting or a line
5 drawing) and a recommended screen size suited to display of said multimedia data.

8. A data broadcasting device provided in a broadcasting station which broadcasts multimedia data, said data broadcasting device comprising:

data analyzing means for analyzing the contents of said
5 multimedia data and generating output attribute data about said multimedia data, and

data transmitting means for broadcasting said multimedia data together with a corresponding piece of said output attribute data.

9. The data broadcasting device according to claim 8, further comprising means for embedding said output attribute data generated

by said data analyzing means in said multimedia data,

wherein said data transmitting means broadcasts said multimedia
5 data in which said output attribute data is embedded.

10. The data broadcasting device according to claim 8, wherein
when said multimedia data is data in an HTML format,

said output attribute data comprises information about data
linked to said multimedia data, concerning at least one of its file
5 name, the number of images contained therein, its data size, and the
number of data pieces further linked thereto.

11. The data broadcasting device according to claim 8, wherein
when said multimedia data is data in a JPEG format,

said output attribute data comprises information about at least
one of data type of said multimedia data (a natural painting or a line
5 drawing) and a recommended screen size suited to display of said
multimedia data.

12. A receiving terminal device which receives multimedia data
broadcast together with output attribute data, said receiving terminal
device comprising:

receiving means for receiving said multimedia data and said
5 output attribute data which are broadcast,

data managing means for managing and storing said multimedia
data and said output attribute data which are received, and

data output means for outputting said multimedia data together
with its attribute information by referring to said output attribute
10 data.

13. The receiving terminal device according to claim 12,
further comprising data extracting means for, when said output
attribute data is embedded in said multimedia data, extracting from
said received multimedia data said output attribute data embedded
5 therein and outputting said output attribute data to said data managing
means,

wherein said data managing means manages said output attribute
data extracted by said data extracting means separately from
corresponding said multimedia data.

14. The receiving terminal device according to claim 12,
further comprising data analyzing means for analyzing the contents
of said received multimedia data and newly generating said output
attribute data about said multimedia data.

15. The receiving terminal device according to claim 12,
wherein

said data managing means further manages a state of reception
about said multimedia data, and

5 said data output means outputs a state of data linked to said
multimedia data by referring to said state of reception as well as

said output attribute data.

16. A receiving terminal device which receives broadcast multimedia data, comprising:

receiving means for receiving said broadcast multimedia data,

data analyzing means for analyzing the contents of said received

5 multimedia data and generating output attribute data about said multimedia data,

data managing means for managing and storing said received multimedia data and said generated output attribute data, and

data output means for outputting said multimedia data together

10 with its attribute information by referring to said output attribute data.

17. A data communication system comprising a data communication device for transmitting multimedia data in a JPEG format and a receiving terminal device receiving the multimedia data transmitted from said data communication device, wherein

5 said data communication device comprises;

data analyzing means for analyzing the contents of said multimedia data and generating output attribute data about said multimedia data, and

data transmitting means for transmitting said multimedia data
10 together with a corresponding piece of said output attribute data,
and

said receiving terminal device comprises;

receiving means for receiving said multimedia data and said output attribute data which are transmitted,

15 data managing means for managing and storing said multimedia data and said output attribute data which are received, and

data output means which determines a method of displaying said multimedia data by referring to said output attribute data.

18. The data communication system according to claim 17, wherein

said data communication device further comprises means for embedding said output attribute data generated by said data analyzing

5 means in said multimedia data, and

said data transmitting means transmits said multimedia data in which said output attribute data is embedded.

19. The data communication system according to claim 18,

wherein said receiving terminal device further comprises data extracting means for extracting from said received multimedia data said output attribute data embedded therein and outputting said output
5 attribute data to said data managing means, and

said data managing means manages said output attribute data extracted by said data extracting means separately from corresponding said multimedia data.

20. The data communication system according to claim 17,
wherein

said data analyzing means generates said output attribute data
showing data type of said multimedia data (a natural painting or a
5 line drawing), and

said data output means determines whether or not to apply
dithering to said multimedia data when displaying said multimedia data
on the basis of said data type.

21. The data communication system according to claim 17,
wherein

said data analyzing means generates said output attribute data
showing a recommended screen size suited to display of said multimedia
5 data, and

said data output means determines whether or not to apply
dithering to said multimedia data when displaying said multimedia data
on the basis of a result of comparison between said recommended screen
size and the size of a screen in which said multimedia data is actually
10 displayed.

22. A data communication device which makes communications of
multimedia data in a JPEG format, said data communication device
comprising:

data analyzing means for analyzing the contents of said
5 multimedia data to generate output attribute data comprising

information about at least one of data type of said multimedia data
(a natural painting or a line drawing) and a recommended screen size
suited to display of said multimedia data; and

data transmitting means for transmitting said multimedia data
10 together with corresponding said output attribute data.

23. The data communication device according to claim 22,
further comprising means for embedding said output attribute data
generated by said data analyzing means in said multimedia data,

wherein said data transmitting means transmits said multimedia
5 data in which said output attribute data is embedded.

24. A receiving terminal device which receives multimedia data
in a JPEG format which is transmitted together with output attribute
data, said output attribute data comprising information about at least
one of data type of said multimedia data (a natural painting or a line
5 drawing) and a recommended screen size suited to display of said
multimedia data, said receiving terminal device comprising:

receiving means for receiving said multimedia data and said
output attribute data which are transmitted;

data managing means for managing and storing said multimedia
10 data and said output attribute data which are received; and

data output means which determines a method of displaying said
multimedia data by referring to said output attribute data.

data analyzing means for analyzing the contents of said received
5 multimedia data to generate output attribute data about data type (a
natural painting or a line drawing) of said multimedia data;

data managing means for managing and storing said received
multimedia data and said generated output attribute data; and

data output means which determines a method of displaying said
10 multimedia data by referring to said output attribute data.

29. A recording medium on which a program to be executed on
a computer device is recorded for realizing an operation environment
on said computer device, the program comprising the steps of:

receiving multimedia data and output attribute data
5 accompanying said multimedia data;

managing and storing said multimedia data and said output
attribute data received; and

outputting said multimedia data together with its attribute
information by referring to said output attribute data.

30. A recording medium on which a program to be executed on
a computer device is recorded for realizing an operation environment
on said computer device, the program comprising the steps of:

analyzing the contents of multimedia data in a JPEG format to
5 generate output attribute data comprising information about at least
one of data type of said multimedia data (a natural painting or a line
drawing) and a recommended screen size suited to display of said

multimedia data; and

transmitting said multimedia data together with corresponding

10 said output attribute data.

31. A recording medium on which a program to be executed on a computer device is recorded for realizing an operation environment on said computer device, the program comprising the steps of:

receiving multimedia data in a JPEG format and output attribute

5 data comprising information about at least one of its data type (a natural painting or a line drawing) and a recommended screen size suited to its display;

managing and storing said multimedia data and said output attribute data received; and

10 determining a method of displaying said multimedia data on the basis of said output attribute data.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data distribution system is provided which generates output attribute data about multimedia data in advance and broadcasts the
5 output attribute data together with the multimedia data so that the receiving terminal can grasp the outlines of the entire multimedia data and improve the visibility.

A data broadcasting device 1 generates output attribute data about multimedia data in a data analyzing portion 13. The output
10 attribute data exists alone or is embedded in the multimedia data. The multimedia data and the output attribute data are encoded in a protocol encoder 14 and broadcast from a transmitter 15. A receiving terminal device 2 receives the broadcast data in a tuner 21 and obtains the multimedia data and output attribute data in a tuner 21. When a
15 data display portion 26 displays the obtained multimedia data, the output attribute data is referred to and information related to the multimedia data is displayed together with the multimedia data. A data analyzing portion 24 analyzes the multimedia data and extracts the output attribute data embedded therein.

FIG. 1

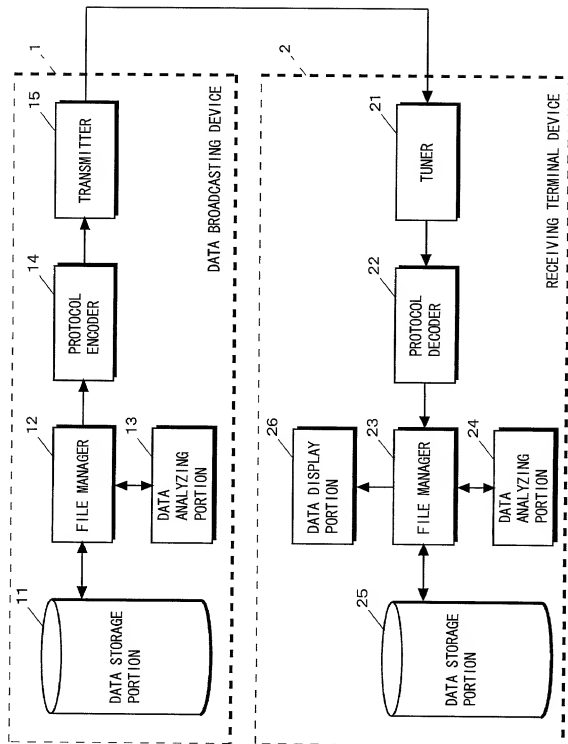


FIG. 2

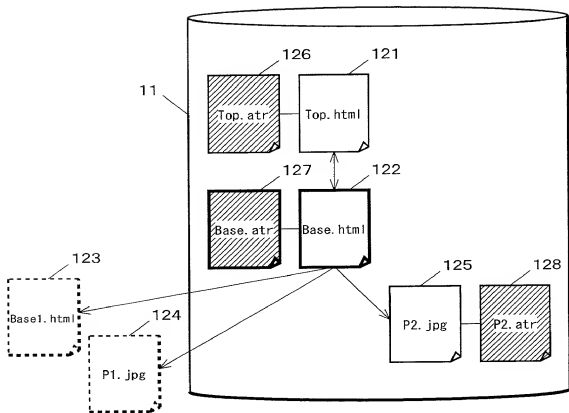


FIG. 3

DATA TYPE	DATA TYPE ID	SIGN
HTML	0	L
JPEG NATURAL PAINTING	1	P
JPEG LINE DRAWING	2	D

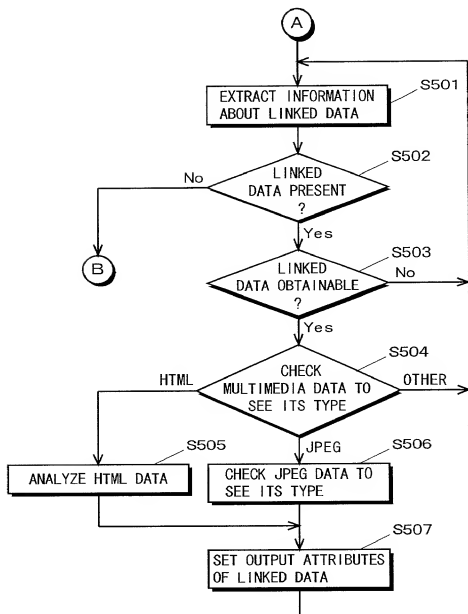


FIG. 6

161

LINK ID	URL	DATA TYPE	LINK NUMBER	IMAGE NUMBER	DATA SIZE
0	Base.html	0	4 2	2 3	1 1
1	http://www.a.co.jp/Base1.html	0	1 2	5	2
2	http://www.b.co.jp/pict/P1.jpg	1	0	1	5
3	../pict/grp/P2.jpg	2	0	1	3
	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
4 2	../Top.html	0	7 4	1 5	2

(a)

162

LINK ID	URL	DATA TYPE	LINK NUMBER	IMAGE NUMBER	DATA SIZE
0	P2.jpg	2	0	1	3

(b)

163

LINK ID	URL	DATA TYPE	LINK NUMBER	IMAGE NUMBER	DATA SIZE
0	Top.html	0	7 4	1 5	2
	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
7 4	../topic/Base.html	0	4 2	2 3	1 1

(c)

FIG. 7

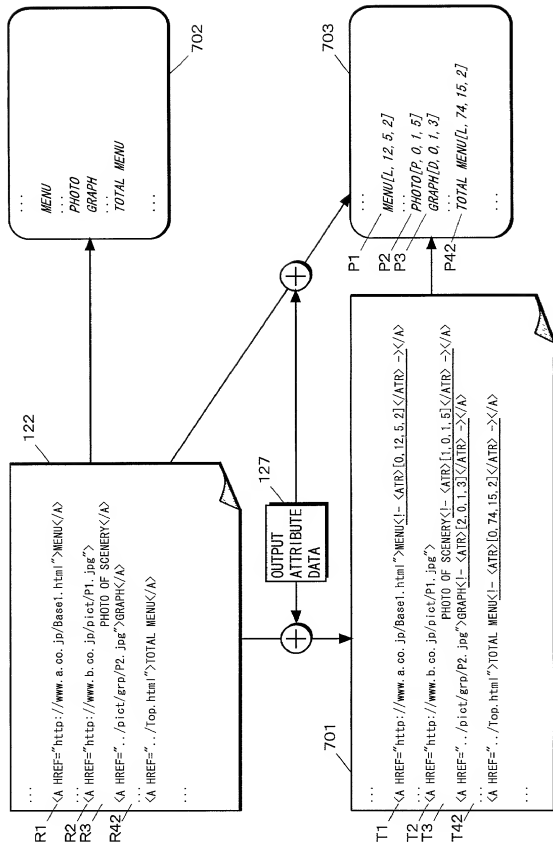


FIG. 8

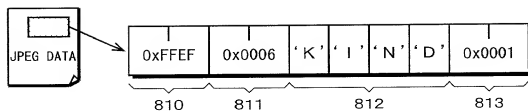


FIG. 9

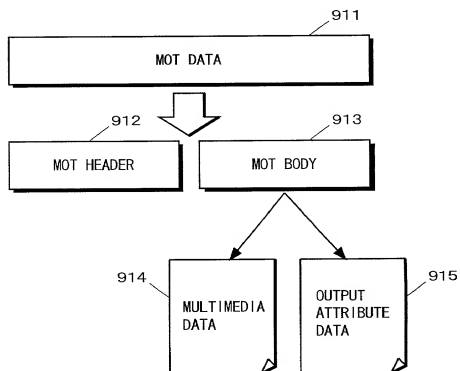
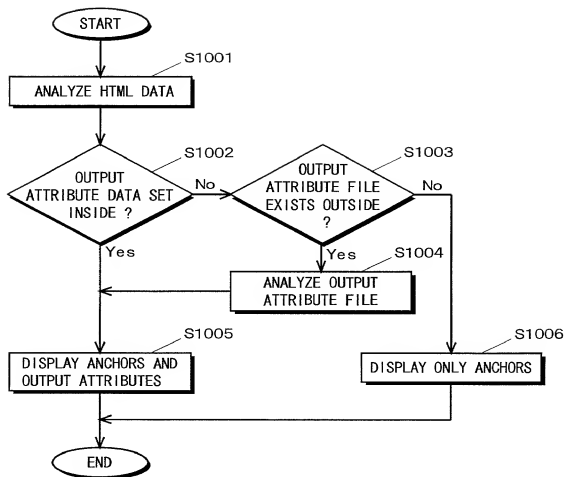


FIG. 10



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FIG. 12

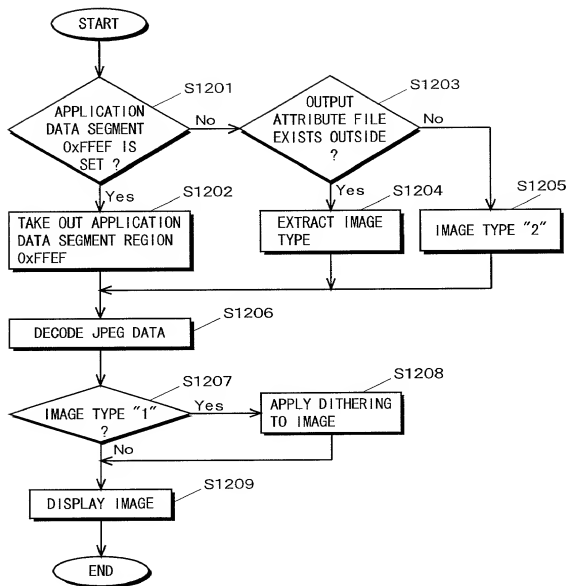


FIG. 13

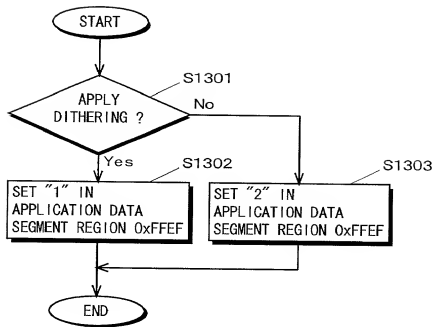
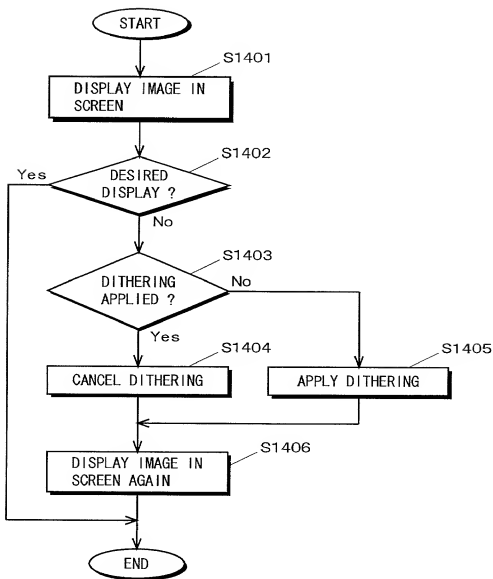


FIG. 14



F I G. 1 5

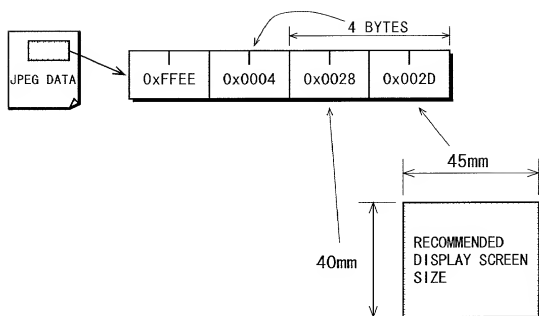
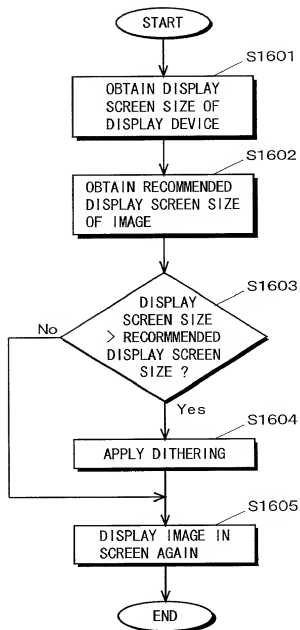


FIG. 16



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THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-C975

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
Eiji UEDA et al. : **Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH**
Serial No. NEW : Docket No. 2000_0727A
Filed June 9, 2000 :
DATA DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND
DEVICES USED THEREIN

**COVER LETTER FOR APPLICATION FILED
WITHOUT EXECUTED DECLARATION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The above-identified application has been submitted without an executed oath or declaration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.41(c).

It is respectfully requested that this application be assigned a serial number and awarded a filing date pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53.

A duly executed oath or declaration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.63 will be submitted after notification by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53(d).

A non-executed copy of the Declaration and Power of Attorney, containing the inventorship information, is attached. It is respectfully requested that all communications be directed to the firm indicated on the attached Declaration and Power of Attorney, namely:

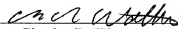
WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.
2033 K Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20006

00590075-060900

The required U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Filing Fee is submitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Eiji UEDA et al.

By 
Charles R. Watts
Registration No. 33,142
Attorney for Applicants

CRW/asd
Washington, D.C.
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
June 9, 2000

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR U.S. PATENT APPLICATION

(X) Original () Supplemental () Substitute () PCT () DESIGN

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Title: DATA DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND DEVICES USED THEREIN

of which is described and claimed in:

- () the attached specification, or
 (X) the specification in application Serial No. _____, filed June 9, 2000, and with amendments through _____ (if applicable), or
 () the specification in International Application No. _____, filed _____, and as amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the content of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above.

I acknowledge my duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 (and §172 if this application is for a Design) of any application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NO.	DATE OF FILING	PRIORITY CLAIMED
Japan	11-165939	June 11, 1999	YES

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	U.S. FILING DATE	STATUS: PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED

And I hereby appoint Michael R. Davis, Reg. No. 25,134; Matthew M. Jacob, Reg. No. 25,154; Jeffrey Noltan, Reg. No. 25,408; Warren M. Check, Jr., Reg. No. 33,367; Nils Pedersen, Reg. No. 33,145; and Charles R. Watts, Reg. No. 33,142, who together constitute the firm of WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P., jointly and severally, attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

I hereby authorize the U.S. attorneys named herein to accept and follow instructions from OGASAWARA PATENT OFFICE as to any action to be taken in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorneys and myself. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorneys named herein will be so notified by me.

03500075-160000

Send Correspondence to

Direct Telephone Calls to:

WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.
2033 K Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20006

WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.
Area Code (202) 721-8200

Direct Facsimile Messages to:
Area Code (202) 721-8250

03550075-06000

Full Name of First Inventor	FAMILY NAME UEDA	FIRST GIVEN NAME Eiji	SECOND GIVEN NAME
Residence & Citizenship	CITY Hiroshima-ken,	STATE OR COUNTRY Japan	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP Japan
Post Office Address	ADDRESS 227-1, Uchiumi, Yasuura-cho, Toyota-gun, Hiroshima-ken, Japan	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE
Full Name of Second Inventor	FAMILY NAME KAWANO	FIRST GIVEN NAME Shinji	SECOND GIVEN NAME
Residence & Citizenship	CITY Hiroshima-ken,	STATE OR COUNTRY Japan	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP Japan
Post Office Address	ADDRESS 3-3-7-402, Rakurakuen, Saeki-ku, Hiroshima-shi, Hiroshima-ken, Japan	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE
Full Name of Third Inventor	FAMILY NAME NAKABE	FIRST GIVEN NAME Futoshi	SECOND GIVEN NAME
Residence & Citizenship	CITY Hiroshima-ken,	STATE OR COUNTRY Japan	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP Japan
Post Office Address	ADDRESS 8-28-28, Nishihara, Asaminami-ku, Hiroshima-shi, Hiroshima-ken, Japan	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE
Full Name of Fourth Inventor	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
Residence & Citizenship	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
Post Office Address	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE
Full Name of Fifth Inventor	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
Residence & Citizenship	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
Post Office Address	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE
Full Name of Sixth Inventor	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
Residence & Citizenship	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
Post Office Address	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

1st Inventor	_____	Date	_____
	Euji UEDA		
2nd Inventor	_____	Date	_____
	Shinji KAWANO		
3rd Inventor	_____	Date	_____
	Futoshi NAKABE		
4th Inventor	_____	Date	_____
5th Inventor	_____	Date	_____
6th Inventor	_____	Date	_____

The above application may be more particularly identified as follows:

U.S. Application Serial No. _____ Filing Date June 9, 2000

Applicant Reference Number FP-0569 Atty Docket No. 2000_0727A

Title of Invention DATA DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND DEVICES USED THEREIN